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Serial No.: 09/826,398

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Art Unit: 2948

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 14-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 have been amended. New claim 19 has been added. As a result claims 4, 5, 7, 9-13 and 19 are pending for examination with claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 19 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,446,115 to Powers (hereinafter Powers). Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, to further the prosecution of the present application, each of these claims has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-5, 7 and 9-13 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Each of claims 4, 5, 7 and 9 has been amended to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, and accordingly, each of these claims is in allowable condition.

Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 19 was added to the application. Claim 19 is directed to a system for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated handwriting. The system includes an input to receive a text message from a user over a network, means for converting the text message into the electronic mail message, the means for converting including means for selecting letter shapes that correspond to the text message and means for joining the letter shapes to create the text message, and an output to transmit the electronic mail message to the user. Claim 19 is patentable over Powers and the other prior art of record for reasons similar to claim 9 discussed above. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a system, as recited in claim 19, that includes means for joining letter shapes to create a text message that is emailed to a user.

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